

The Case of My Midnight Mystery- Solved. RUC, as the FBI says

3/28/95

Solution: It was the ^Heathen Chinese

Background: My wife, as those with aging bones are more inclined to do, responded to a mail solicitation by ordering a toilet-bowl brush. In response she received a letter telling her it was back-ordered. Then she got a letter informing her that the wristwatch she ordered would soon be sent her. She wrote to offer the opinion that a wristwatch does not seem to be an appropriate means of cleaning a toiletbowl. To that she received no acknowledgement.

But it happens that a medication prescribed for my aging skin the problems from which are complicated by the coumadin on which I have lived for two decades has an adverse effect on plastic watchbands. Coumadin, for those who do not know, is warfarin. And warfarin, quite literally, is rat poison.

The facts of the case: For a week or so I have heard strange noises sounding somewhat like a rooster crowing at midnight. Roosters do not crow at midnight and there are no known living roosters hereabouts. The mystery was compounded by my hearing these noises without my hearing aids. Without them I hear little, cannot perceive what my wife is saying when she says it right at my face. This sound was repeated two dozen times before stopping.

When I told my wife yesterday that it had happened again the past midnight, she suggested that I involve the telephone company. It was fascinated and said a technician would be here to investigate between 1:30 and 5:30 p.m. today. That not being close to midnight I asked my wife, who is usually awake then, to wake me a little before midnight if I were not awake. She did. I got my minicassette recorder ^{and} sat where I usually sit, near the suspected culprit, the Caller ID attached to our speakerphone.

With the stroke of midnight it happened again—with my wife looking straight at me, not at the Caller ID. I was then sitting with my left hand on my lap. And, with my hearing aids in, the sounds seemed to be coming not from that Caller ID but from the area of my lap! They were in fact coming from this ^{Chinese} new watch. With the nice, soft band that has not yet stiffened from the medication. I moved the watch to my ear and there is no question about it, that rooster crows 24 times from it each midnight!

It is ^{also} a talking watch. It literally tells the time. In that I not only had no interest, it tells me the time when I put a shirt or a jacket on, even when I scratch my back. In a woman's voice and to the precise minute. The talking time is activated by a raised button on the face. ^{me only} With my ~~invariably~~ by accident.

But the meager information with the watch said nothing about any rooster crowing.

Or how to stop him from violating nature by crowing at midnight. And then 24 times. That mystery continues, at least temporarily. *How to stop it!*

My Midnight "mystery"- add of 3/27/95 , 2:04 a.m.

At midnight, and I looked at the clock, I again heard those noises, again without either hearing aid on. I counted 24 of them. I think I was lying awake and wondering whether to try to return to sleep when they began but I'm not certain. It took me about a half hour to return to sleep and I then slept only a half hour so I suppose I could have been awake for a short while before the noises began. Rather than that they awakened me. They again seemed to come from the direction of the Caller ID.

As I lay there trying to return to sleep I was thinking about this. I wonder why I am now aware of these noises when we've had that Caller ID at least two years without my being aware of those noises before I indicated it only recently. I'm pretty sure that since we've had this gadget I've been up often at midnight and that I've been lying awake at midnight without hearing them. From this I wonder why I was not aware of them for the two or more years I've had the gadget. And why I'd never heard them for during that time she certainly has walked past it on her way to the kitchen as in getting a drink.

That I do hear them without the hearing aids also makes me wonder because without them my hearing is so poor. I do not believe it is likely that my hearing has suddenly become more sensitive at the frequency of these noises. Their frequency does not seem to be unusual. There are no unusual highs or lows in them. Not that I detect.

There has been no change in the connections of the Caller ID, no change in any wiring in the house, no new appliances connected to the electricity.